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ASCLEPIAS OVALIFOLIA **OVALLEAF MILKWEED**

Ovalleaf Milkweed is a perennial with usually solitary slender stems 20-60 cm high arising from rhizomes. The erect to spreading, opposite leaves have petioles that are up to 1 cm long, and broadly lance-shaped to elliptic blades that are 4-8 cm long with entire margins. Leaves are moderately long, hairy beneath, and the sap is milky. 1-3 umbrella-shaped, stalked clusters of 8-20 flowers are at the top of the stem or in the axils of the upper leaves. Each greenish-white to cream flower is 8-10 mm high and borne on a hairy stalk that is up to 20 mm long. Flowers have 5 reflexed corolla lobes that are 5-6 mm long, and 5 erect hoods that are 4-5 mm long and rounded at the tip; these hoods surround a greenish or yellowish central column, and each has a conical horn inside. The erect spindle-shaped fruits are 6-8 cm long and ca. 1 cm wide. Each fruit has numerous seeds, each with a light brown tuft of hairs that is 18-35 mm long. Flowering in late June-early July.

ASCLEPIAS VIRIDIFLORA and *A. SPECIOSA* also have broad leaves, but the former lacks horns within the hoods, and the latter has pink to purple flowers.